

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 01824 051358Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20

DRC-01 /207 W

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R 050926Z JUL 74

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, DA, SF

SUBJECT: DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER REAFFIRMS DANISH INTEREST
IN TRADING WITH SOUTH AFRICA

1. BEFORE PARLIAMENT'S SUMER RECESS LAST MONTH,
A REQUEST BY THE DANISH CHURCH'S "PORGRAM FOR
THE RACES" THAT DENMARK ABOLISH ISSUANCE OF
EXPORT CREDIT GUARANTEES FOR EXPORTS TO SOUTH
AFRICA WAS RAISED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.
FOREIGN MINISTER GULDBERG REPLIED THAT SOUTH
AFRICAN MARKET IS CONSIDERED THE MOST IMPORTANT
FOR DENMARK ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AND THAT
THE PRESENT LEVEL OF DANISH EXPORTS WAS ACHIEVED
ONLY AFTER ARDUOUS EFFORTS BY DANISH COMPANIES
INVOLVED. HE FELT REMOVAL OF GUARANTEES WOULD
HARM EXPORTS AND THEREFORE ALSO DANISH FOREIGN
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EXCHANGE EARNINGS, WHICH ARE IN GREAT NEED OF

BOLSTERING. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SUCH ACTION MIGHT AFFECT EMPLOYMENT IN EXPORT-DIRECTED COMPANIES AND PROBABLY NOT BENEFIT AFRICAN BLACKS

2. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE WAS INTERESTING IN LIGHT OF GENERAL DANISH SYMPATHY WITH BLACK AFRICAN CAUSES. IT REVEALED AGAIN THAT CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE HEART AND POCKET-BOOK TEND TO BE WON BY THE LATTER IN PRAGMATIC DENMARK. DANISH EXPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICA IN 1973 EXCEEDED 22 MILLION DOLLARS, UP NEARLY 30 PERCENT FROM 1972 AND CLOSE TO 10 PERCENT OF TOTAL DANISH EXPORTS (INCLUDING SHIPS) TO THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.
CROWE

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